

time, my constituent and countless others would have been spared years of IRS pressure.

Moreover, I am impressed by the fact that someone would step forward in order to help prevent future innocent spouses from going through what my constituent had to go through. Mr. Speaker, I unveiled my bill at an April 15 Tax Day news conference in front of IRS headquarters in Baltimore. That night, a local TV news anchor, informed of how the bill would alleviate unwarranted IRS pressure on innocent spouses, called H.R. 3650 a no-brainer. I am optimistic that a majority of my colleagues in the House will agree.

H.R. 3650 has been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Both Democrats and Republicans have shown a keen interest in the bill. Senator ALPHONSE D'AMATO of New York is actively working to pass identical legislation in the United States Senate. I hope that my colleagues will join me in taking IRS reform a step further to protect many of our Nation's most vulnerable taxpayers.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN'S RECENT NUCLEAR DETONATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McKEON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago India detonated five nuclear devices, a course of action that it has not followed for 24 years since its first nuclear test in 1974. A week ago Pakistan, too, detonated five devices. This was Pakistan's first testing ever. Through the irresponsible actions of both India and Pakistan, two more nations of the world have declared themselves nuclear weapons states. In the course of these critical 2 weeks, our planet has returned towards the days of nuclear peril, the likes of which have not been seen since the most tense days of the Cold War.

To be fair, both nations gave what were seemingly plausible reasons for their nuclear arms program. For India, Prime Minister Vajpayee stated that its nuclear development was due to the fact that it was surrounded by two hostile neighbors. One, which has clashed with India in three wars this century, engaged in a subversive war in the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir and has engaged in a provocative ballistic missile program, and the other neighbor, the PRC, a declared nuclear weapons state, has fought against India along its northern border.

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Pakistan claims that India provoked it. Pakistan, a nation of 132 million, has been in the shadow of its much larger neighbor since the partition that divided the subcontinent and created both nations in 1947. Fearful of its larger neighbor's intentions, Pakistan began its nuclear program clandestinely after the Indian test of 1974.

But, Mr. Speaker, the real issue here is not who did what to who. Both nations can point to a litany of reasons why they should be suspicious of each other. While the two nations are but 50 years old, their shared cultural history spans thousands of years, and we know that their grievances do as well.

Today, South Asia is on the brink of a nuclear arms race. Yesterday, the New York Times reported that India's defense budget has been increased by 14 percent. In addition, the Indian Department of Space's budget was increased by 62 percent and the Indian Atomic Energy Commission by 68 percent. You can be sure that the military accounts on these two agencies received the lion's share of this increase. In all likelihood, Pakistan has sure to match these increases in their own nuclear and military programs.

The tragedy in this spiraling arms race is that many millions of impoverished and illiterate men, women and children of Pakistan and India are being left out in the cold as scarce resources are being spent on ballistic weapons and nuclear missiles.

Since its adoption, both India and Pakistan have never been party to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; and, despite the fact that 149 nations have endorsed it, both have refused recently to endorse its recent renewal. Their citing of the so-called inequity of the CTBT, which does not require the five declared nuclear states to abandon their nuclear programs, rings hollow in light of their recent actions. Indeed, India has long called for complete worldwide nuclear disarmament. Yet regardless of India's perceived security threats, it has never had to follow this course of action. Equally, Pakistan missed a golden opportunity to take the high road by not performing nuclear tests in response to India's. Despite efforts by the Clinton administration, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif decided to follow India on the path towards nuclear bliss and strategic uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly protest the actions of the governments of India and Pakistan. Nuclear weapons are not the answer. These tests were an act of extreme violence, and the testing of nuclear weapons have opened a Pandora's box in South Asia. Through this violence they show the world how meek they truly are, for it is the emboldened and brave who choose the path of peace.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in sending India and Pakistan a strong message of disapproval and to support the President in his use of economic and military sanctions.

Mahatma Gandhi once said: "Non-violence is the first article of my faith. It is the last article of my faith. But I had to make my choice. I believe non-violence is infinitely superior to violence, forgiveness is more manly than punishment, strength does not come from physical capacity, it comes from indomitable will. We have better work

to do, a better mission to deliver to the world."

I sincerely hope that both Pakistan and India remember the words of Gandhi. The prayers of humanity rest on the hope that the millions of India and Pakistan will find a way to live together peacefully in the next century. We know the horrors that nuclear weapons can bring, and that cannot be the road to peace.

GLOBAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO A NUCLEAR ARMS RACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, the 11 nuclear detonations conducted by India and Pakistan this past month demonstrated in graphic fashion the weakness of present international efforts to control nuclear proliferation. The tests also revealed the folly of economic sanctions in deterring nuclear proliferation when balanced against asserted interests of national security.

In a recent opinion editorial piece in the Washington Post, physicist Zia Mian and professor Frank Von Hippel of Princeton University provide an answer to proliferation that I fully support, and I want to share this with my colleagues.

They advocate, and I quote, "India's and Pakistan's nuclear tests are a challenge that can be met in either of two ways. One would be to simply recreate the nuclear status quo with two more nuclear weapon states and accept the enormous dangers for the people of India and Pakistan and the rest of the world. The alternative would be to take international steps to devalue nuclear weapons' possessions by moving the nuclear goal posts towards disarmament."

"The history of the past 50 years teaches that nuclear weapons are unusable for rational military purposes and that their existence makes ordinary human miscalculation or madness potentially catastrophic. Yet the nuclear weapon states act as if they are giants in the world of pygmies, creating imagination in many countries and a temptation for nationalistic parties such as India's newly governing BJP."

And I further quote from this article, Mr. Speaker. "India is behaving like a state that has successfully broken into the nuclear club, and Pakistan, after hesitating over the likely ruinous price of membership, has decided that it must join as well. Israel slipped in long ago, thanks to the United States being willing to cast a blind eye in its direction. Other States such as Iran and Iraq and perhaps South Korea, Taiwan and Japan wait in the wings."

"To break this dynamic, the United States, Russia and other charter members of the nuclear club must make it more credible that they really intend to put the nuclear club out of business."